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CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE UNITED AGAINST HATE

Stand for Love, Sing for Justice event to occur Wednesday in response to hate speech aimed at citizens this weekend

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 22, 2018

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Who: The Unitarian Universalist Church of Tippecanoe County and City of West Lafayette

What: Stand for Love, Sing for Justice: An Affirmation of Freedom

Where: The UU Church – 333 Meridian St, West Lafayette, IN 47906

When: January 24, 2018: 7:30 pm

WEST LAFAYETTE, IN – The City of West Lafayette will be joining in solidarity with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tippecanoe County (UU Church) for Stand for Love, Sing for Justice: An Affirmation of Freedom in response to the vile, hate-filled banners posted at the UU Church before its weekly forum and service on Jan. 21st.

“The City of West Lafayette is united against hate,” Mayor John Dennis said. “We will not allow ourselves to be targeted by those who wrongly feel empowered to deliver a message of hate, violence or exclusivity.”

Rev. Charlie Davis of the UU Church is inviting all those who look to cast a light of hope unto the darkness wrought by the words posted Sunday at his church to join him, Mayor Dennis, Denise Williams and the Blue Moon Rising Community Choir and others to the UU Church at 7:30 pm Wednesday. There will be songs of optimism as well as speakers including Rev. Davis and Mayor Dennis.

West Lafayette City Clerk Sana Booker, who will be in attendance at Wednesday’s event, said she was saddened by the weekend’s events, knowing most had moved on from the rhetoric of the Jim Crow South of her youth. “We’re better than this, and we want it understood that you will not do this in our community,” she said. “We have to be the voice that says no, not here, not now, not ever.”

With this event, Rev. Davis said he hopes to raise the level of dialogue about our community to show what an open and welcoming city West Lafayette is. “There are so many people who reached out in shock over what was written on our fence, and how out of line it is for this area. We showed with Saturday’s Resistance Fair, and will again on Wednesday that we are a peaceful and inclusive group that

will stridently work for an enlightened populous, and against those who attempt to exclude or threaten others.”

Police continue to seek information on the person or persons who erected these signs. “Hate speech is not protected speech and we will vigorously pursue and prosecute anyone who seeks to intimidate and strike fear in our citizens,” West Lafayette Police Chief Jason Dombkowski said. The police have informed the FBI of the incident.